THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Subsequent to developments in Ayodhya, Reserve Bank of India had advised banks to provide assistance on a priority basis to persons affected by riots/disturbances in various parts of the country. Government specifically monitored the progress of assistance by banks to affected persons in Mumbai (Maharashtra), Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. As per the latest information available from the convenor banks of these States, loans in 4432 accounts have been sanctioned to affected persons by banks.

(b) and (c) Complaints in regard to non-adherence of RBI instructions in this regard by banks, as and when received by Government, are taken up with the concerned banks for remedial action.

GDP and Fiscal Deficit

*420. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that per capita GDP has declined from $ 330 in 1991 to $ 300 in 1993;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the fiscal deficit has increased to 6.5% of GDP and external debt to the level of $ 100 billion.

(c) whether the present economic reforms have any bearing on these facts of the country's economy; and

(d) if so, the specific steps being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Central Statistical Organisation is the nodal agency responsible for preparation of National Accounts Statistics. These are published on a financial year basis at current and constant prices in Rupee Value only. As per their latest available figures per capita Gross Domestic Product at 1980-81 prices rose from Rs. 2547 (Quick Estimates) in 1992-93 to Rs. 2595 (Advance Estimates) in 1993-94. However, in dollar terms twenty sixth world Bank Atlas published by the World Bank has reported per capita Gross National Product (GNP) figures for India. These are US $ 310 in 1992 as against US $ 330 in 1991. These two set of figures are not comparable as the underlying methodology and the year of reporting differ.

(b) India's fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP in 1993-94 has been estimated at 7.3 per cent of GDP and is expected to come down to around 6 per cent during 1994-95. As per the latest available figures (April—September, 1993) India's outstanding external debt (including defence debt) stood at Rs. 2,82,904 crore (US $ 90.39 billion).

(c) and (d) The economy has emerged decisively from the crisis of 1990-91. The crisis reached its peak in the summer of 1991 when foreign currency reserves had plummeted to almost US $ 1 billion, inflation had soared to an annual rate of 17 per cent and overall economic growth had declined to 1.1 per cent in 1991-92. The programme of stabilisation and economic reform measures put in place helped to restore economic growth (it was 4 per cent in 1992-93 and 3.8 per cent in 1993-94), brought down the rate of inflation, stimulated recovery in real investment, exports and a sharp increase in inflow of private foreign capital and foreign exchange reserves. The overall trends and developments in the economy are under constant review and monitoring and measures undertaken whenever deemed necessary.

Undergoing Telephone Wiring in Haryana

4365. SHRI RAMJILAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether open wire S. T. D. Communications System is being converted into underground wiring (C-DOT/optical fibre/electronic method) in various Telephone Exchanges of Haryana;

(b) if so, whether this work has since been completed by the 19th April, 1994;

(c) whether this work has also been completed from Kurukshetra-Ladwa-Balain to Naraingarha; if so, whether the area is linked without any interruption to Hissar, Delhi, Yamuna Nagar, etc,; and

(d) the expenditure involved on this project during the last year and upto April, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Kurukshetra is having a 4000 lines E-10 B RLU type Electronic exchange which is parented to Ambala Digital TAX on Digital Coaxial/140 Mbs Digital Micro-wave for STD services. Ladwa is also having an electronic exchange of 1128 lines of C-DOT SBM type and is connected to Kurukshetra on 120 Chi. Digital UHF. At Babain an electronic exchange ILT-512 P has been commissioned on 30-3-94 with a 30 Chl. Digital PCM system to Ladwa. Telephone connections to village Naraingarh have been fed from Babain Telephone exchange on overhead alignment and there are only four telephone connections working in Naraingarh village. The Stations Hissar, Delhi & Yamuna Nagar etc. are available through Ambala TAX on digital transmission media providing reliable STD services.

(d) (i) The estimated expenditure on Ladwa-Babain PCM system is about Rs. 10,88,400/- and

(ii) The estimated expenditure on Kurukshetra-Ladwa 120 Chl. digital UHF system is about Rs. 55,16,700 totalling Rs. 66,05,100 during the last year and same upto April, 1994.

New Telephone Exchange in Shivajinagar in Pune

4366. SHRI V. N. GADGIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal that the new telephone exchange in Shivajinagar, Pune, should be named General Arun Vaidya Exchange; and

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under active consideration.

Opening of Sub-Post Office at Basot and Branch Post Office at Kota

4367. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the resident of Basot have represented for opening a Sub-Post Office at Basot, District Almora;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have also requested for opening Branch Post Office at Kota; and

(c) if so, by when a Sub-Post Office at Basot and Branch Post Office at Kota are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU) : (a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal for upgradation of Basot Extra Departmental Branch Office to Departmental Sub Office in District Almora was examined but not find justified according to the departmental norms. Opening of a Branch Post Office at Kota will be considered during the current Annual Plan subject to fulfilment of departmental norms, allotment of target and availability of resources.

Installation of Telephones in Central and South Delhi

4368. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2581 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1994, and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone connections have been provided so far to most of the registrants in General Category under the Janapath and Kidwai Bhawan telephone exchanges, connections for which have been released upto 31st December, 1993 and the Chanakyapuri exchange for which connections have been released upto 17th September, 1992 ;

(b) if not so, the reasons therefor;